(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for meeting the Demand of herbs in international market and earning foreign exchange therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle was established in 1956. Since then scientists of the Botanical Survey of India engaged in research work on herbs of hilly areas of north-east India which includes the whole area of Assam also. Several research papers have already been published on herbs of Assam. A comprehensive account of Plants of Assam in the form of flora is under preparation.

(c) and (d) Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed agro and processing technologies for diverse medicinal and aromatic plants which have been made available to farmers for commercial exploitation. Its efforts have led to increased cultivation and processing of some medicinal and aromatic plants. Which besides meeting internal requirements are also exported, for example: Menthol Mint, which is now cultivated in about one lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh producing about 9000 tonnes of oil valued at around Rs. 500 crore.

Reservation of Beds

189. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no reservation of beds for CGHS beneficiaries in Central Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide reservation of beds in such hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries or their family members;

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) As patients from the general public alongwith CGHS beneficiaries take indoor treatment in Central Government hospitals, it would be difficult to reserve beds for CGHS beneficiaries in these hospitals since patients are admitted depending on the merit/urgency of their case irrespective of whether these patients are from the general public or are Central Government employees/ pensioners covered under CGHS. However, the Nursing Home facility at Dr. R.M. Lohia Hospital are mainly provided to the entitled CGHS beneficiaries.

IRS-1D

190. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether PSLV-C1 rocket launched recently has successfully placed in orbit an operational remote sensing satellite IRS-1D;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the extent of success achieved how far it has placed India amongst the big powers with satellite launching facilities;

(c) whether the Prime Minister at a press conference following the launch declared that India would resist all attempts by any country to prevent it from transferring its achievements in key sectors like space-technology in defence; and

(d) if so, from which countries such resistance was preceived or pressures received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Significant milestone has been achieved by PSLV demonstrating capability to place a 1200 kg class IRS satellite into 817 km polar orbit on 29th September 1997. With this mission, apart from increasing the payload capability by 30 per cent from 922 kg of IRS P3 in the previous mission in March 96, several ground systems required for Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) such as common check-out facilities and propellant servicing facilities also have been validated. Improved first two stages have also been successfully flight proven. The experience gained in the previous flights has resulted in reducing the countdown time to 52 hours from about 72 hours earlier.

With this success, India becomes the seventh country possessing launch capability of 1200 kg polar sunsynchronous

satellites into 817 km orbit. The other nations are USA, Russia, Ukraine, Europe, China and Japan.

The cost of PSLV-C1 was about Rs. 60.00 crores and that of IRS-1D was Rs. 62.00 crores.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister had, *inter-alia,* stated that the science and technology programme of the country would remain multi-dimensional covering diverse areas such as defence, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and research. Expressing satisfaction with the scientific community, PM also said that every barrier was an opportunity for India to extend its own indigenous capabilities and called for the removal of all embargoes.

There are several international technology-denial regimes operated mainly by developed Western countries. These aim at denying to Indian industry such equipment and technology as would enable us to develop our scientific and technological capabilities.

Apprentices Act, 1961

191. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to cover certain vocational courses under Apprentices Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal to cover 7 (Seven) vocational courses under the Apprentices Act, 1961. On examination it was found that these courses are already available for trade apprentices under the Apprentices Act, 1961 under one or other existing description. It was therefore felt that covering them again as proposed was not required.

[Translation]

Patent of Drugs

192. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scheme to patent the drug formulations; and

(b) if so, the name of drugs patented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Under the Indian Patents Act 1970 drug formulations perse are not eligible for grant of letters of patent.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Grievances of Grade I Officers

193. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from different ends including Members of Parliament highlighting the grievances of Grade-I officers of Central Secretariat Service during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grievances of Grade I officers of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) highlighted in the representations received during the last one year relate broadly to the preparation of the Common Seniority List of Section Officers and promotions to the Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service and above.

(c) No Select List for regular promotions to Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after the 1986 Select List owing to protracted litigation regarding inter-se seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. As a result, promotions to the grade of Deputy Secretary of Central Secretariat Service have also been affected. A final Common Seniority List of Section Officers was issued on 15.5.1996 in compliance with the order dated 22.3.1995 of the Central Administrative Tribunal which was again quashed by the judgement dated. 9.5.1997 of the Supreme Court. Action to redo the list in accordance with the Supreme Court's order dated 9.5.97 in some SLPs has been initiated. Promotions to the Grade I and above of the CSS can be reviewed/made only after the CSL is finalised afresh.